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PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows. Canceled claims are canceled without prejudice to presenting again in a continuation or other application.

1. (Currently Amended) A genomic profile information system accessible over a communications network, the genomic profile information system comprising:

data for a plurality of participants indicating genomic profile information of the participants; and

a software system comprising privacy settings for at least one of the participants and controlling access by others over the communications network to genomic profile information of the participant, wherein the participant controls the privacy settings for the participant, and the privacy settings for the participant can be configured by the participant over the communications network;

wherein the genomic profile information system is operable to indicate that the participant is a member of a group;

wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition, the genomic profile information system is operable to provide group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, and the members comprise at least one of the participants for which genomic profile information is stored; and

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

2. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the software system enforces confidentiality for the genomic profile information of the participant unless otherwise specified by the participant.

GLM:neh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

3. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein:  
the settings indicate a computer system under a participant's control on which at least some of the participant's genomic profile information resides; and  
the software system accordingly directs requests for information residing on the computer system under the participant's control to the computer system under the participant's control.
4. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 3 wherein at least some of the participant's genomic profile information residing on a computer system under the participant's control is provided to another participant via a peer-to-peer network arrangement.
5. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein identity of the participant is authenticated over the communications network via biometric screening.
6. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the privacy settings comprise separate privacy settings for other participants and for researchers.
7. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the privacy settings comprise separate privacy settings indicating whether medical information of the participant can be accessed by others.
8. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein:  
the software system indicates whether the participant is a member of one or more groups; and  
the privacy settings comprise separate privacy settings indicating whether group membership information of the participant in the system can be accessed by others.
9. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the privacy settings comprise separate privacy settings indicating whether a primary disease of the participant can be accessed by others.

GLM:aeh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

10. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein:  
the settings indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be examined  
by other participants; and  
the software system accordingly allows examination of the participant's genomic profile  
information by other participants while preserving anonymity of the participant.

11. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 10 wherein:  
the settings indicate one or more participants are members of a group;  
the settings indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be examined  
by other participants who are members of the group; and  
the software system accordingly allows examination of the participant's genomic profile  
information by other participants who are members of the group while preserving anonymity of  
the participant.

12. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 further comprising:  
software for identifying two or more participants having similar genomic profile  
information; wherein the identifying software presents a user interface option to a participant for  
contacting another similar participant while maintaining anonymity of the similar participant.

13. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein:  
the settings comprise an identifier by which a participant can be identified anonymously;  
and  
the software system accordingly identifies the participant via the identifier.

14. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the settings  
indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be examined by other  
participants.

15. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the settings  
indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be examined on behalf of other  
participants.

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

16. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the settings indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be examined for a comparison at the request of another participant.

17. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the settings indicate whether a participant's genomic profile information can be distributed.

18. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the settings indicate an organization to which a participant's genomic profile information can be distributed.

19. (Currently Amended) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein a set of participants have a disease condition, and the genomic profile information comprises information indicating the outcomes of such therapies for the disease condition.

20. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the genomic profile information system further comprises comparison tools operable by a researching participant having a disease condition, and the tools identify therapy outcomes for participants having a disease condition and molecular portrait similar to the researching participant.

21. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 further comprising: a comparison tool software system comprising comparison tools for comparing genomic profile information for two or more participants.

22. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 21 wherein the participant is a patient having a disease condition, and the comparison tools support patient-driven comparative analyses of genomic profile information over a communications network.

23. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 21 wherein at least one of the tools compares gene expression.

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

24. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 21 wherein at least one of the tools compares drug response information.

25. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 21 wherein the comparison tools provide comparison results indicating one or more participants, and the participants are listed anonymously in the comparison results.

26. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 25 wherein at least one of the anonymous listings of the participants can be selected by a computer user interface to send a message to the anonymously-listed participant.

27. (original) The genomic profile information system of claim 1 wherein the genomic profile information comprises genomic pathology information for one or more participants.

28. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system has information for over 10,000 participants.

29. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system has information for over 100,000 participants.

30. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system has information for over 1,000,000 participants.

31. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system has information for over 10,000,000 participants.

32. (original) The system of claim 1 wherein the system has information for over 100,000,000 participants.

GLM:zeh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

33. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
registering an individual as a participant in a genomic profile information center;  
collecting personal genomic profile data of the participant;  
adding the participant to a genomic profile information database; ~~and~~  
granting the participant custodial control over the participant's genomic profile  
information; and  
indicating in the center that the participant is a member of a group;  
wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a  
particular medical condition, the genomic profile information center is operable to provide  
group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and  
information, and the members comprise at least one of the participants for which genomic  
profile information is stored; and  
wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging  
information with other group members.

34. (original) A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for performing the method of claim 33.

35. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein custodial control comprises controlling, via a computer user interface, whether the participant's genomic profile information is to be provided to others.

36. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein custodial control comprises controlling, via a computer user interface, whether the participant's genomic profile information is to be provided for use in a particular study.

37. (original) The method of claim 33 wherein custodial control comprises controlling whether other participants being members of a designated group can access the participant's genomic profile information.

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

38. (original) The method of claim 37 wherein the participant's genomic profile information is identified anonymously.

39. (original) The method of claim 33 further comprising:  
as a result of receiving authorization from the participant to provide the participant's genomic profile information for use in research, compensating the participant.

40. (original) The method of claim 39 wherein compensation originates from payment by a third party.

41. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
analyzing a biological sample collected from a patient to generate a genomic profile for the patient;  
incorporating the genomic profile for the patient into a genomic profile information collection comprising genomic profile information for a plurality of other patients; **and**  
compensating the patient by providing at least some level of access to the genomic profile information collection; **and**  
**indicating in the collection that the participant is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition; and**  
**providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least one patient for which genomic profile information is stored in the collection;**  
**wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.**

42. (original) The method of claim 41 wherein the genomic profile information collection comprises a network of computers communicating via a peer-to-peer network arrangement.

GLM:seh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

43. (original) The method of claim 41 wherein incorporating comprises storing a reference to a computer under control of the patient at which genomic profile information for the patient can be accessed.

44. (original) The method of claim 41 wherein the genomic profile for the patient is stored on a computer system under control of the patient and accessed by others by accessing the computer system under control of the patient.

45. (original) The method of claim 41 wherein the genomic profile for the patient is stored on a computer system under control of the patient and access to the genomic profile for the individual is provided by the computer system under control of the patient.



GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

46. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
registering an individual as a participant in a genomic profile information network;  
collecting genomic profile information from the participant, wherein the genomic profile information from the participant comprises gene expression information for one or more genes based on a biological sample taken from the participant;

adding the genomic profile information from the participant to a collection of data comprising genomic profile information from other participants, wherein the genomic profile information from the other participants comprises gene expression information for the one or more genes based on biological samples taken from the other participants;

comparing the genomic profile information of the participant with that from the other participants to generate comparison results indicating closeness between the participant's genomic profile information and genomic profile information of one or more of the other participants; and

presenting the genomic profile information of the one or more other participants, wherein identities of the one or more other participants remain anonymous; and

indicating in the collection that the participant is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition; and

providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least patient for which genomic profile information is stored in the collection;

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

47. (original) The method of claim 46 further comprising:  
accepting a selection via a graphical user interface from the participant indicating a message is to be sent to the one or more other participants; and  
responsive to the selection, sending a message to the one or more other participants.

48. - 54. (canceled)

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

55. (currently amended) A method comprising:  
collecting a biological sample from a person;  
performing analysis on the sample to generate personal genomic profile for the person;  
pooling the personal genomic profile with personal genomic profiles from other people  
into a collection of anonymous personal genomic profiles;  
selling the collection of anonymous pooled personal genomic profiles to a requesting  
entity for payment; ~~and~~  
as a result of the sale, compensating the person via the payment; and  
indicating in the collection that the person is a member of a group, wherein the  
group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical  
condition; and  
providing group members with access to genomic profile information group  
functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least person for which  
genomic profile information is stored in the collection;  
wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging  
information with other group members.

56. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
directing a person to supply a biological sample from the person's body to a laboratory;  
receiving an analysis of the biological sample from the laboratory and incorporating the  
analysis into a personal genomic profile for the person;  
pooling the personal genomic profile with personal genomic profiles from other people  
into a collection of anonymous personal genomic profiles;  
selling the collection of anonymous pooled personal genomic profiles to a requesting  
entity for payment; ~~and~~  
as a result of the sale, compensating the person via the payment;  
designating the person as a member of a group; and  
providing the person with access to group functions and information;  
wherein members of the group are limited to those interested in acquiring  
information about a particular medical condition.

GLM:ash 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

57. - 58 (canceled)

59. (currently amended) A method for motivating a participant to contribute to a genomic profile information database, the method comprising:

receiving personal genomic profile information of the participant for addition to the database;

adding the personal genomic profile information to the database;

and

providing comparative genomic analysis to the participant in exchange for receiving the personal genomic profile information of the participant, wherein the comparative genomic analysis comprises comparing the personal genomic profile information to personal genomic profile information for other participants in the database; and

indicating in the database that the participant is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition; and

providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least one participant for which genomic profile information is stored in the database;

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

60. (original) The method of claim 59 wherein receiving personal genomic profile information of the participant comprises:

receiving genotype information of the participant; and

receiving phenotype information of the participant.

61. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:

receiving payment for a collection of genomic profile information comprising the individual genomic profile information;

wherein the monetary compensation is derived from the payment.

GLM:aeh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

62. (original) The method of claim 58, further comprising:  
combining the individual genomic profile information into a collection of genomic  
profile information comprising the individual genomic profile information; and  
selling the collection of genomic profile information comprising the individual genomic  
profile information in exchange for a payment;  
wherein the monetary compensation is derived from the payment.

63. (original) A method comprising:  
storing a personal genomic profile for a participant in a database;  
designating the participant as a member of a group; and  
providing the participant with access to group functions and information.

64. (original) The method of claim 63 wherein the group functions include  
exchanging information with other group members.

65. (original) The method of claim 63 further comprising:  
limiting members of the group to those interested in acquiring information about a  
particular medical condition.

66. (original) The method of claim 63 further comprising:  
limiting members of the group to those having a particular medical condition.

67. (currently amended) The method of claim 63 further comprising:  
limiting members of the group to those having ~~substantially~~ similar age, sex, or race.

68. - 69. (canceled)

GLM:neh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

70. (currently amended) A method for building a genomic profile information database, the method comprising:

responsive to the request of an individual human being, adding a personal genomic profile for the individual human being to the database;

receiving a request to provide a collection of information comprising the personal genomic profile to a requestor in exchange for payment;

responsive to the request to provide a collection of information comprising the personal genomic profile, providing an anonymous version of the personal genomic profile from the database to the requestor in exchange for payment; and

based on having provided the anonymous personal genomic profile to the requestor, compensating the individual human being for having added the personal genomic profile via the payment;

indicating in the database that the individual human being is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition; and

providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least one participant for which genomic profile information is stored in the database;

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

71. (canceled)

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

72. (currently amended) A method for providing a service to a remote customer, the method comprising:

obtaining a personal genomic profile of the customer;

pooling the profile with other profiles;

over a computer network connection, providing the customer with tools to compare the profile with other profiles in the pool;

indicating that the customer is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition;  
and

providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least one participant for which genomic profile information is stored;

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

73. - 86. (canceled)

GLM:ach 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

87. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing the following:

receiving personal genomic profile information for an individual;

adding the personal genomic profile information to a database;

retrieving a pool of information from the database;

receiving an indication that the pool of information has been sold; and  
responsive to receiving the indication, recording compensation data indicating the individual is to be compensated;

indicating in the database that the individual is a member of a group, wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition; and

providing group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, wherein the members comprise at least one individual for which genomic profile information is stored in the database;

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.

88. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 87 wherein receiving the profile information comprises receiving the profile information over a computer network connection.

89. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 88 wherein receiving the profile information comprises receiving the profile information from a remote laboratory.

90. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 87 wherein the indication is received over a computer network connection.

91. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 87 wherein the pool of information from the database is a set of personal genomic profiles having specified criteria.

GLM:aeh 07/18/05 357642.doc  
PATENT

Attorney Reference Number 6424-61326-01  
Application Number 10/035,814

92. (original) The computer-readable medium of claim 91 further comprising computer-readable instructions for performing the following:

receiving the specified criteria from a researcher; and  
presenting a number of individuals meeting the criteria to the researcher.

93. (canceled)

94. (currently amended) A genomic profile information center comprising:  
means for collecting personal genomic profiles from a plurality of participants;  
means for pooling the personal genomic profiles into a collection of personal genomic profiles; and

means for recording compensation due to a participant as a result of having sold the collection to a requesting entity; wherein the genomic profile information center is operable to indicate that the participant is a member of a group;

wherein the group is designated for members interested in avoiding or treating a particular medical condition, the genomic profile information center is operable to provide group members with access to genomic profile information group functions and information, and the members comprise at least one of the participants for which genomic profile information is stored; and

wherein the genomic profile information group functions comprise exchanging information with other group members.